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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/810,298	03/27/2004	Stephen W. Day	7751-C	9305

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EXAMINER	
VO, HAI	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1771	

DATE MAILED: 05/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/810,298	DAY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hai Vo	1771	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *23 December 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-35* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *18,19 and 22-34* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-17, 20, 21 and 35* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *27 March 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *0614*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-16 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tunis, III et al (US 5,904,972). Tunis discloses a fiber reinforced core panel having opposite core surfaces comprising a plurality of elongated tubes, at least one layer of fibrous rovings continuously and helically surrounding each of the tubes along the length thereof (column 4, lines 16-17, figures 1 and 2). The tubes are hollow cells or solid foam blocks (column 7, lines 55-56). The elongated tubes and helically surrounding rovings being connected together to form a unitized core panel with the rovings extending over the core surfaces for receiving the skins (column 8, lines 5-6, figures 17A-17B). The resin can be a thermoplastic resin or a thermosetting resin (Column 5, lines 9-12). The resin flows from the microgrooves of the core surface to the fiber material (column 5, lines 13-19). Impregnation results from resin infusion originating at the core surface and migration outwardly to the exterior of the part

(column 5nes 13-16). Likewise, the resin extends through the outer surface of the fiber material as well. Accordingly, Tunis anticipates the claimed subject matter.

3. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chapman, Jr. (US 6,655,633). The limitation of the elongated tubes is not fully supported by the provisional application No. 60/458,475, filed on March 28, 2003. Claim 15 has the effective filing date of the new application, namely March 27, 2004. Chapman discloses a fiber reinforced core panel having opposite core surfaces comprising a plurality of elongated tubes, at least one layer of fibrous rovings continuously and helically surrounding each of the tubes along the length thereof. The elongated tubes and helically surrounding rovings being connected together to form a unitized core panel with the rovings extending over the core surfaces for receiving the skins (column 9, lines 31-50, column 10, lines 55-65, figures 2 and 3). Accordingly, Chapman anticipates the claimed subject matter.
4. Claims 1-14, 16 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 200147706. Day et al (US 6,740,381) will be relied on as an equivalent form of WO 200147706 for convenience. Day teaches a fiber reinforced core panel 190 having a length greater than a width comprising a series of adjacent blocks 178 of low density cellular material and arranged to form an elongated strip, a first layer 176 of fibrous rovings continuously and helically surrounding the strip along the length thereof, a second layer 177 of fibrous rovings continuously and helically surrounding the first layer on the strip along the length thereof. The rovings of the second layer extend helically in an opposite direction and crossing the rovings in the first layer

(figures 13 and 14). Day teaches that the reinforcing member 180 applied to all faces of the foam strip (column 18, lines 58-60). Likewise, the blocks are separated by reinforcing member 180 which extend between adjacent blocks and between the layers. Day teaches a foam strip further comprising a reinforcing member 174 of fibrous rovings extending helically around the strip located above the planar web 180 as shown in figure 12. The helically extending rovings extend over the core surfaces (column 20, lines 50-60). The rovings 113 as shown in figure 8 reads on Applicants' rovings extending adjacent the core surfaces and parallel to the strips and having a depth into the foam blocks greater than their width. Figure 1 shows that each of strips 33 having opposite faces attached to corresponding facer 34 extending between the core surfaces of the core panel. The middle strip as shown in figure 14 reads on Applicants' spacer strip. Day teaches the reinforcing rovings and skin being impregnated with liquid resins which are subsequently fused together through the application of heat and pressure (column 23, lines 10-30). Likewise, the thermoset resin extending through the fibrous reinforcing members and an inner portion of at least one of skins and a thermoplastic resin extending through an outer portion of the skin. Accordingly, Day anticipates the claimed subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 17, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tunis, III et al (US 5,904,972) in view of Landi et al (US 5,039,567). Tunis does not teach a fiber reinforced core panel comprising a plurality of elongated serpentine strips. Landi, however, teaches a sandwich structural panel for use in boat hull structure comprising a core made form a plurality of elongated serpentine strips of expanded thermoplastic material bonded together (figures 1 and 7, and column 4, lines 64-66). Likewise, the serpentine strips have portions of reduced thickness. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the foam strips having a serpentine configuration motivated by the desire to provide the panel having high tear and tensile strength and highly resilient with optimal compression load and shock absorption characteristics (see Landi, column 3, lines 19-22).
7. Claims 17, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 200147706 in view of Landi et al (US 5,039,567). Day does not teach a fiber reinforced core panel comprising a plurality of elongated serpentine strips. Landi, however, teaches a sandwich structural panel for use in boat hull structure comprising a core made form a plurality of elongated serpentine strips of expanded thermoplastic material bonded together (figures 1 and 7, and column 4, lines 64-66). Likewise, the serpentine strips have portions of reduced thickness. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the foam strips having a serpentine configuration motivated by the desire to provide the panel having high tear and tensile strength

and highly resilient with optimal compression load and shock absorption characteristics (see Landi, column 3, lines 19-22).

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 18, 19, and 22-34 are allowed. No prior art was found to teach or fairly suggest a fiber reinforced core panel having a structure as recited in claims 18 and 22.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai Vo whose telephone number is (571) 272-1485. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on (571) 272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hai Vo

HAI VO
PRIMARY EXAMINER